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1. (Twice Amended) An improved-customizability digital sound relaxation and noise masking  
system, comprising:

a digital sound relaxation device having operator input sound selection means, a built-in[,]  
memory, said memory having pre-selected and prerecorded sounds selectable for individual  
replay, and a sound controller that is [capable of continual, perpetual, uninterrupted replay of  
sounds selected for individual replay] coupled to said memory and said operator input means and  
operative (1) to play any sound of said built-in memory selected via said operator input sound  
selection means and (2) to repetitively replay it so as to create a sound environment that masks  
noise and soothes the listener without disrupting pauses; and

a collectable sound card having prerecorded, pre-selected sounds therein cooperative with  
said digital sound relaxation and noise masking device to make available its sounds for replay by  
said digital sound relaxation and noise masking device, thereby customizing the sounds playable  
by said digital sound relaxation and noise masking device to the tastes of the user in accord with  
the particular collectable sound card collected, such that the sound controller thereof is operative  
(1) to play any sound of said collectable sound card selected via said operator input means and (2)  
to repetitively replay it so as to create a sound environment that masks noise and soothes the  
listener without disrupting pauses.

2. (Twice Amended) The improved-customizability digital sound relaxation and noise masking  
system of claim 1, wherein said digital sound relaxation and noise masking device [further]

3 includes a port for receiving said collectable sound card, which port includes an electrical  
4 connector, and wherein said collectable sound card is adapted for insertion in said port and  
5 includes a connector adapted to mate with said connector of said port when inserted therewithin.

1 3. (Twice Amended) The improved-customizability digital sound relaxation and noise masking  
2 system of claim 1, wherein said operator input sound selection means of said digital sound  
3 relaxation and noise masking device includes a plurality of sound selector switches for selecting  
4 individual ones of said built-in, pre-selected and prerecorded sounds, and further includes a sound  
5 card selector switch for reassigning said switches between said built-in and said sound card  
6 sounds.

1 4.(Twice Amended) The improved-customizability digital sound relaxation and noise masking  
2 system of claim 3, further including corresponding indicia on said digital sound relaxation and  
3 noise masking device and said collectable sound card for associating said sound selector switches  
4 and said sounds of said collectable sound card.

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1 5 (Three Times Amended) An improved digital sound relaxation and noise masking device  
2 [capable of continuous, perpetual uninterrupted replay of individually selected sounds] that enables  
3 individuals to customize their collection of [natural] sounds to their individual tastes, comprising:

4 (1) an internal digital memory in which a plurality of prerecorded [natural] sounds are  
5 digitally stored therein in a predetermined manner;

6 (2) at least one sound selector switch for selecting one of said plurality of prerecorded  
7 [natural] sounds digitally stored in said internal digital memory for replay;

8 (3) a port for receiving an external digital memory sound card having a plurality of  
9 prerecorded [natural] sounds different from said plurality of prerecorded [natural] sounds stored  
10 in said internal digital memory;

11 (4) a sound card selector switch to reassign said at least one sound selector switch from  
12 its said function of selecting one of said plurality of prerecorded [natural] sounds digitally stored  
13 in said internal digital memory for replay to the function of selecting one of said plurality of  
14 prerecorded [natural] sounds stored in said external sound card for replay whenever the same is  
15 received in said port; and

16 (5) a sound controller including a processor coupled to said port and to said digital memory  
17 and responsive to said switches operable in one of two (2) basic modes; in one <sup>built in</sup> mode, any  
18 prerecorded sound stored in said internal digital memory is [replayed] played by activating said  
19 at least one sound selector switch and repetitively replayed in such a way as to provide a sound  
20 environment that masks noise and soothes the listener without disrupting pauses, and in another

21 <sup>sound card</sup> mode, any prerecorded sound stored in external digital memory of a collectable sound card  
22 inserted within said port is [replayed] played by activating said sound card selector switch and by

23 activating said at least one sound selector switch and repetitively replayed to provide a sound  
24 environment that masks noise and soothes the listener without disrupting pauses.

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In claim 6, line 1, after "relaxation" please insert -- and noise masking --

In claim 7, line 1, after "relaxation" please insert -- and noise masking --

In claim 8, line 1, after "relaxation" please insert -- and noise masking --

In claim 8, lines 2 and 5, please delete "natural"

In claim 9, line 1, after "relaxation" please insert -- and noise masking --

In claim 9, lines 2 and 6, please delete "natural"

Sub D2  
1 10. (Twice Amended) A collectable sound card having sounds stored therein for use with a digital  
2 sound relaxation and noise masking device having a digital controller and a plurality of built-in  
3 preselected, digitally prerecorded [natural] sounds individually selectable for play and repetitive  
4 replay [and capable of continuous, perpetual uninterrupted replay of individual sounds selected  
5 for replay] by said digital controller so as to provide sound environments that mask noise and

6 soothe the listener without disrupting pauses that enables individuals to customize their collection  
7 of [natural] sounds to their individual tastes by making the sounds of the collectable sound card  
8 available for play and repetitive replay by the digital controller of the digital sound relaxation and  
9 noise masking device in the same way that the built-in sounds thereof are available for play and  
10 repetitive replay so as to provide sound environments that mask noise and soothe the listener  
11 without disrupting pauses, comprising:

12 (1) a digital memory device having a plurality of [natural] sounds of preselected type,  
13 selected to be different from said plurality of preselected [natural] sounds of said digital sound  
14 relaxation and noise masking device, stored therein in a predetermined manner; and

15 (2) a connector electrically connected to said digital memory device so adapted for  
16 connection with said digital sound relaxation and noise masking device as to add [its] the sounds  
17 of the digital memory of the collectable sound card to the sounds of said digital sound relaxation  
18 and noise masking device thereby customizing the collection of sounds available for play and  
19 repetitive replay by said digital controller of said digital sound relaxation and noise masking  
20 device so as to provide sound environments that mask noise and soothe the listener without  
21 disrupting pauses in accord with individual taste.

In claim 11, lines 2 and 5, please delete "natural"

In claim 12, on lines 2 and 5, please delete "natural"

1 14. (Twice Amended) An improved-customizability digital sound relaxation and noise masking  
2 system, comprising:

3 a collectable sound card, having a library of prerecorded sounds selectable for individual  
4 replay, matable with a digital sound relaxation and noise masking device, also having a library  
5 of prerecorded sounds selectable for individual replay, to expand the library of prerecorded  
6 sounds available for selectable replay by adding its library of prerecorded sounds to the library  
7 of the digital sound relaxation and noise masking device, said collectable sound card having (1)  
8 a digital memory in which a plurality of prerecorded [natural] sounds are stored for selectable  
9 replay and (2) a connector member for connection with said digital sound relaxation and noise  
10 masking device; and

11 a digital sound relaxation and noise masking device [capable of continuous, perpetual  
12 uninterrupted play of individual sounds selected for replay] having (1) an internal digital memory  
13 in which are stored a plurality of prerecorded sounds for individual replay, (2) a connector  
14 member for connection with said connector member of said collectable sound card, and (3) a  
15 digital controller having operator input means and operative in response to at least one operator  
16 input in a sound card mode, where said collectable sound card is mated with said digital sound  
17 relaxation and noise masking device, to play and repetitively replay a selected one of the plurality  
18 of prerecorded sounds stored on either of said digital memory of said collectable sound card or  
19 of said internal digital memory of said digital sound relaxation and noise masking device in such  
20 a way as to provide sound environments that mask noise and soothe the listener without disrupting

21 pauses, and operative in response to at least one operator input in a stand-alone mode, where said  
22 collectable sound card is not mated with said digital sound relaxation and noise masking device,  
23 to play and repetitively [reply] replay a selected one of the plurality of prerecorded sounds stored  
24 on said internal digital memory of said digital sound relaxation and noise masking device in such  
25 a way as to provide sound environments that mask noise and soothe the listener without disrupting  
26 pauses.

c4  
1 15. (Twice Amended) An improved-customizability digital sound relaxation and noise masking  
2 system, comprising:

3 a digital sound relaxation and noise masking device [capable of continuous, perpetual  
4 uninterrupted play of individual sounds selected for replay,] having a library of prerecorded  
5 sounds selectable for individual replay stored therein in digital format, matable with a collectable  
6 sound card having a connector member, also having a library of prerecorded sounds selectable  
7 for individual replay stored therein in digital format, to expand the library of prerecorded sounds  
8 available for selectable replay by adding its library of prerecorded sounds to the library of the  
9 collectable sound card, said digital sound relaxation and noise masking device having (1) an  
10 internal digital memory in which are digitally stored a plurality of prerecorded sounds for  
11 individual replay, (2) a connector member for connection with [a] said connector member of said  
12 collectable sound card, and (3) a digital controller having operator input means and operative in  
13 response to at least one operator input in a sound card mode, where said matable digital sound

14 relaxation and noise masking device is mated with said collectable sound card, to play and to  
15 repetitively replay a selected one of the plurality of prerecorded sounds stored on either of said  
16 digital memory of said collectable sound card or of said internal digital memory of said digital  
17 sound relaxation and noise masking device in such a way as to provide a sound environment that  
18 masks noise and soothes the listener without disrupting pauses, and operative in response to at  
19 least one operator input in a stand-alone mode, where said digital sound relaxation and noise  
20 masking device is not mated with said collectable sound card, to play and to repetitively [reply]  
21 replay a selected one of the plurality of prerecorded sounds stored on said internal digital memory  
22 of said digital sound relaxation and noise masking device in such a way as to provide a sound  
23 environment that masks noise and soothes the listener without disrupting pauses.

In claim 16, line 1, after "relaxation" please insert -- and noise masking --

Sub D3  
1 17. (Twice Amended) An improved-customizability digital sound relaxation and noise masking  
2 system, comprising:  
3 a collectable sound card, having a library of prerecorded sounds selectable for individual  
4 replay [so digitally stored as to provide for continuous, perpetual uninterrupted replay,] matable  
5 with a digital sound relaxation and noise masking device[, also] of the type having a library of  
6 prerecorded digitally stored sounds selectable for individual replay and a digital controller  
7 operative to (1) play and (2) repetitively replay any sound selected in such a way as to provide a



8 ~~sound environment that masks noise and soothes the listener without disrupting pauses~~, in order  
9 to expand the library of prerecorded sounds available for selectable replay by adding its library  
10 of prerecorded sounds to the library of the digital sound relaxation and noise masking device, said  
11 collectable sound card having (1) a digital memory in which a plurality of prerecorded sounds are  
12 digitally stored for selectable play and repetitive replay by said digital controller of said digital  
13 sound relaxation and noise masking device in such a way as to provide a sound environment that  
14 masks noise and soothes the listener without disrupting pauses and (2) a connector member for  
15 connection with said digital sound relaxation and noise masking device.

Please enter the following new claims:

1 19. (New) The invention of any one of claims 1, 5, 10, 14, 15 and 17, wherein at least some of  
2 said sounds are stored in sound bite format that define at least two different self-contained and  
3 complete-in-themselves versions of the same sound, and wherein said controller is operative to  
4 play said sounds stored in said sound bite format by (1) randomly choosing a version of the  
5 selected sound; (2) randomly choosing a time when to replay it; (3) replaying the randomly chosen  
6 version of the sound selected at the randomly chosen time; and (4) repeating (1) through (3) for  
7 the duration of playback.